

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Amendment – Ser. No. 09/955,273
October 15, 2007
Page 2

OCT 15 2007

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as shown in the following complete listing of all claims:

1. - 28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for supplying sterilizing fluids and sterile user fluids in dental equipment, said apparatus comprising:

a main conduit supplying a mains fluid to a plurality of connecting branches connecting with corresponding dental handpieces;

a first sub-branch for delivering a disinfectant or sterilizing fluid ~~instead of the mains fluid~~, the first sub-branch connected to the main conduit upstream of the connecting branches;

a second sub-branch for delivering sterile user fluid, the second sub-branch connected to the first sub-branch;

the first and second sub-branches being equipped with respective first and second closures used to attach respective associated first and second fluid containers, said first and second closures being equipped with respective first and second tubes connected respectively to the first and second sub-branches and insertable in the respective associated first and second ~~containers~~ containers;

control means adapted to selectively cause the first and second tubes and designed to suck in fluid from the first and second containers, respectively on a command from related control means;

wherein the first sub-branch starts at the first closure and connects to the main conduit upstream of the connecting branches and also connects directly with the second sub-branch downstream of the second tube, ~~thus allowing~~ the control means adapted to initiate alternately supply of: (i) the disinfectant or sterilizing fluid along the first sub-branch to the main conduit; (ii) the sterile fluid along the second sub-branch to the main conduit by way of the first sub-branch.

L:\SMH\PATENT\BUG\145_am5.doc

Amendment – Ser. No. 09/955,273
October 15, 2007
Page 3

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the first sub-branch starts at the first closure and connects directly with the second closure of the second sub-branch.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein each closure is equipped, at a top end of the tube, with a valve acting in combination with the control means to allow the fluids to flow into the first sub-branch only one at a time when required.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the first closure attached to the first sub-branch to supply the disinfectant or sterilizing fluid is equipped with an "L" duct connected to the first sub-branch to divert the fluid towards the second closure.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the second closure attached to the second sub-branch to supply the sterile user fluid is equipped with a "T" duct connected to the first sub-branch and the second sub-branch.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the first and second closures are equipped with first and second non-return valves located at top ends of the first and second tubes, respectively.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said control means for controlling the supply of each fluid comprises an air duct in each closure and designed to be activated by a unit for generating pressure inside the respective container in such a way as to allow the selected fluid to be supplied.

L:\SMH\PATENT\BUG\145_am5.doc

Amendment – Ser. No. 09/955,273
October 15, 2007
Page 4

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the first sub-branch connecting the first and second closures is equipped with a second shutoff valve located between the first and second closures and adapted to selectively close the first sub-branch between the first and second closures while the sterile fluid from the second associated fluid container is being used.

L:\SMH\PATENT\BUG\145_am5.doc